

safer for the Confederates to have united their armies some days at least before they did so.

McDowell, as we have said, began his movement on July 16th. He encountered no force of the enemy until he arrived in the neighborhood of Bull Run on the 17th. On the 18th, Tyler, who commanded one of the divisions, having been ordered to make a reconnaissance of the lower fords of the stream, foolishly and without any object, exposed his command, or a part of it, to a rather heavy fire. Some of his troops fell into confusion, and all were promptly withdrawn; the affair was a discreditable one, and unquestionably had a bad influence on the army, while it also (lid something to inspirit the Confederates.

The army of General Beauregard lay behind the rather tortuous stream of Bill Run, which runs, from the stone bridge where it is crossed by the "Warrenton" turnpike, in a direction generally south-east until it falls into the Occoquan. Its banks were high and often wooded, and its rather frequent fords were carefully guarded, so that it presented a formidable obstacle for such raw troops as those which constituted the United States forces. It is true that the Confederate troops were equally raw; but they were standing on the defensive, and it has often happened that green troops have held

positions and
sustained attacks with remarkable
firmness. The
superiority of trained soldiers is, of
course, always
marked; but it is never so clearly marked
as when
demand is made upon the men for
endurance of
fatigue, of heat, of cold, of hunger, of
muddy roads
and bad weather, of discovery,
reports, of adverse